

Message Text

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FROM PA - JOHN REINHARDT

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, XF

SUBJECT: MIDDLE EAST SETTLEMENT TERMS RECEIVE CAUTIOUS
PUBLIC SUPPORT

1. ACCORDING TO THE HARRIS POLL RELEASED THURSDAY,
AUGUST 28, THE PUBLIC VIEWS THE REPORTED ARRANGEMENTS
UNDERPINNING THE EGYPTIAN-ISRAELI AGREEMENT WITH CAUTIOUS
APPROVAL. AT THE SAME TIME, THE PUBLIC IS DEEPLY SKEPTICAL
THAT THE CURRENT SETTLEMENT WILL ACTUALLY LEAD TO A LASTING
PEACE.

2. A 42 TO 28 PERCENT PLURALITY ARE AGREEABLE TO HAVING
U.S. TECHNICIANS AT THE SINAI PASSES. (30 PERCENT NOT
SURE.)

3. A 49 TO 20 PERCENT PLURALITY SUPPORT ASSURING ISRAEL
AN ADEQUATE SUPPLY OF OIL IN RETURN FOR ITS VACATING THE
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ABU RUDEIS OIL FIELDS. (31 PERCENT NOT SURE.)

4. A 50 TO 17 PERCENT PLURALITY APPROVES OF ISRAELI
WITHDRAWAL FROM THE GIDDI AND MITLA PASSES. (33 PERCENT
NOT SURE.)

5. DESPITE FAVORING THESE STEPS, THE PUBLIC'S
DUBIOUSNESS ABOUT THEIR LONG-RANGE EFFECTIVENESS IS
INDICATED BY THE FOLLOWING RESPONSES:

BY 46 TO 26 PERCENT, THE PUBLIC DOUBTS THAT EGYPT AND
ISRAEL WILL REMAIN AT PEACE FOR THE LENGTH OF THE
AGREEMENT. (28 PERCENT NOT SURE.)

BY 37 TO 33 PERCENT, THE PUBLIC DOUBTS THAT "A BIGGER,
FULL PEACE BETWEEN ISRAEL AND THE ARABS NOW IS POSSIBLE."
(30 PERCENT NOT SURE.)

BY 49 TO 20 PERCENT, THE PUBLIC BELIEVES THAT, BY
INTERPOSING AMERICAN TECHNICIANS, "THE RISK OF DIRECT
INVOLVEMENT OF U.S. MANPOWER IN FUTURE MIDDLE EAST
FIGHTING INCREASES SHARPLY." (31 PERCENT NOT SURE.)

6. THE WILLINGNESS TO HAVE U.S. PERSONNEL MAN SINAI
POSTS, DESPITE THE PERCEIVED RISK, APPEARS TO INDICATE
A STRONGLY FELT NEED TO MAKE EVEN RISKY EFFORTS TO
DEFUSE THE SITUATION. AT THE SAME TIME, THE DOUBTS
THAT SUCH EFFORTS WILL SUCCEED IS INDICATED BY THE
PLURALITIES WHO FORESEE FAILURE AND THE SUBSTANTIAL
MINORITIES WHO VENTURE NO OPINION AS TO THE LIKELY OUT-
COME.

7. A SIGNIFICANT INDICATOR OF THE STRONGLY FELT NEED TO
VENTURE AN EFFORT AT SETTLEMENT IS THE FACT THAT JEWS
ARE MORE APPROVING OF THE PRESENT STEPS TOWARD A SETTLE-
MENT THAN EITHER CATHOLICS OR PROTESTANTS. HARRIS
ASKED, "ALL IN ALL, DO YOU FEEL THIS FIRST STEP
SETTLEMENT BETWEEN EGYPT AND ISRAEL IS FAIR AND JUST
OR NOT?"

8. THE RESPONSES, BY RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION, WERE:
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	FAIR AND JUST	NOT SO	NOT SURE
JEWISH	53	28	19
CATHOLIC	41	20	39
PROTESTANT	39	22	39

9. THE PREVAILING PUBLIC ATTITUDE THEREFORE SEEMS TO

BE THAT A SETTLEMENT HAS TO BE ATTEMPTED EVEN IF THE EXPECTATION OF SUCCESS IS, TO SAY THE LEAST, QUITE RESTRAINED. GIVEN SUCH AN ATTITUDE, IT WOULD APPEAR THE PUBLIC WILL GIVE HIGH MARKS FOR EFFORT AND EVEN TEMPORARY SUCCESS, SINCE IT HAS ALREADY DISCOUNTED HEAVILY THE LIKELIHOOD OF ULTIMATE SUCCESS.

10. FINALLY, IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT THE POLL WAS TAKEN BEFORE THIS PAST WEEK'S NEWS REPORTS ON THE PROGRESS TOWARD A SETTLEMENT. (END TEXT) INGERSOLL

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